

For More Information

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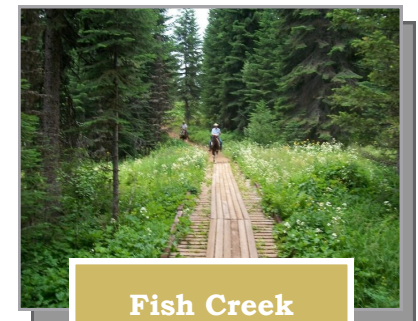
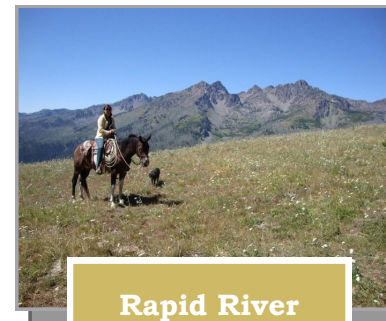
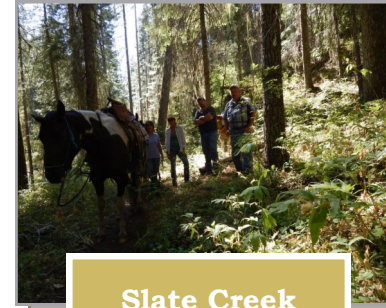
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Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Salmon River Ranger District
Horse and Hiking Trails



Adams Ranger Station Area

Would you like to step back in time and experience the lives of our early Forest Rangers and breathe some fresh mountain air? Adams is in close proximity to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness and the historic town of Florence, numerous trails and small streams.

History: As early as 1862, Adams was a way station serving the many wagons and horse back riders that rode up the trail towards gold at Florence. The Forest Service established the nearby area as a Ranger Station in 1919. The employees stationed there evaluated the area's numerous homestead and mining claims, timber and boundary surveys, supplied camps and managed fire protection programs in the surrounding area. Slate Creek lookout was supported by Adam's crew. Employees also operated the switchboard since all incoming calls for the telephone lines routed to Adams for the area. The old Rangers house was built in 1932 for the District Ranger and his family. It has not been occupied since 1960s when administration of the Ranger District was moved to Slate Creek Ranger District. The condition of that cabin has slowly deteriorated since that time. In 2003 Adams Ranger house was eligible for historic status preservation and remains on the National Register of Historic Places.

Access: There are 3 ways to access this great area. There are a few more secondary routes, but these are generally unknown gravel roads and you will need a map to follow.

1. **US 95:** at Riggins, turn east at the bridge going up Main Salmon. Follow river on the FS rd. 1614 to Allison creek where you will turn north on FS rd. 221, follow this until the FS 309 rd. which you follow for just about a mile to Adams on the left.
2. **State Hwy 13:** at Grangeville to FS rd. 221, follow south to FS rd. 309, to Adams.
3. **State Hwy 13:** at Grangeville to FS rd. 221 about a mile and a half to the secondary rd. going to Mt. Idaho, then on down Mt. Idaho Grade to State Hwy 14 follow up the South Fork of the Clearwater River in a easterly direction to the FS 309 rd., follow to Adams about 17 miles.

Camping: If you would like the comforts of home you can get online and register to stay at the Historic Adams Ranger Station. The cabin is \$50.00 a night and provides most everything you need except food, drinking water, sleeping bags, and some white gas and propane canisters. Of course you will have to bring all your own camping supplies, such as clothing, compasses, first aid kits and the like. Go to www.recreation.gov to reserve this cabin.

There are many more camping areas near the ranger station. You can camp at several dispersed campsites or go up to Corral Creek, a nearby stock facility.

most of the trails system and the FS has built a new parking lot at the trailhead for the West Fork Rapid River Tr. # 113 that is located adjacent to the fish hatchery. The trailhead has trailer parking and a vault toilet. There are, many places to tent camp up the trails if you want to pack in somewhere. Please be sure to pack out what you have packed in.

Trails: There are several trails to take out of both accesses. For the reason of this being a Nez Perce Forest Recreation guide, the list as follows only shows the Nez Perce accesses. If you would like to access the RRFH from the Payette side, please consult the Council Ranger Station in Council Idaho.

1. **RRFH:** West Fork Rapid River Trail #113 is approximately 11 miles in length and can take you to trails #191, #192, and #194 that can take you to Horse Heaven where there is a old cabin. This trail is the starting place of many more trails.
2. **RRFH:** Potters Trail #60 4.5 miles in length and it will take you through the old homestead area known as Potters Flat. This trail also leads to Bryan Mountain and trail #71 (Oxbow Trail). These trails are very difficult as they traverse heavily timbered areas, and side hills.
3. **RRFH:** main Rapid River Trail #59 3.4 miles in length, via the #113 trail. This will lead you to Wyant Camp and on up the main river. At about Wyant Camp, there is access to the Oxbow trail #71 and the Rattlesnake Tr. #166.
4. **RRFH:** The Oxbow Tr. #71 is a well maintained trail that travels 10 miles from its junction with the Rapid River Tr. #59 over to its junction with the West Fork Tr. #113. It climbs up to access Bryan Mtn. at over 8000 ft. and then descends back to the West Fork Rapid River at the junction of Dog Ridge Tr. # 62. This trail also accesses the Potter Trail #60 near Chain Springs.
5. **RRFH:** Frank Wurl Tr. #61 and Dog Ridge Tr. #62 begin along Tr. #113 at about 7 miles and 9 miles respectively. Both of these trails are regularly maintained and intersect the Boise Trail #101 along the edge of the Seven Devils Wilderness.

Rapid River, a Wild and Scenic River was classified under the Hells Canyon Act of 1975, and its pristine watershed provides high quality, cold water necessary to rear Chinook salmon. Much of its western drainages arise in the Seven Devils mountains. Nearly all of its drainages are roadless. The trails system is interconnected with the Hells Canyon Wilderness Trails and the Upper Rapid River/Black Lake trail systems in the Payette National Forest.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. (Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968)

History: The Nez Perce, Shoshone and Bannock Native American tribes inhabited the areas close or on the Rapid River watershed. Their lifestyle depended on the rivers close to the area for salmon and on the surrounding lands for other animals, as well as precious natural minerals and resources that provided them with items to trade. Europeans introduced horses to the Bannock, who in turn spread their use to the Shoshones, allowing them to travel further and hunt buffalo and other big game. Settlers began arriving in the 1850s and established farms, ranches and towns. Communications to the outside world was limited until the construction of roads and railroads in the early 20th Century. Despite that, the region has still remained relatively isolated.

Access: You can access the Rapid River Wild and Scenic area by three ways.

1. **U.S. 95:** about 3 miles south of Riggins, up Rapid River road 3 miles to hatchery. This is the head of the #113 trail.
2. **U.S. 95:** at Council; via the Black Lake road on the Payette National Forest. Information and maps are available at the Council Ranger Station in Council, Idaho.
3. **U.S. 95:** about 11 miles south of Riggins, up Forest Road 624 to Mullin Springs is the trailhead for Rattlesnake Tr. # 166.

Camping: There is not really anywhere to camp with a vehicle here unless you come around the Payette National Forest side or use one of the many dispersed campsites along the Salmon River. Rapid River Hatchery is the starting point for

1. **Adams Ranger house:** take FS 221 out of Grangeville to rd. # 309 and drive approximately one mile to Adams on the left. Make reservations for cabin ahead of time.
2. **Corral Creek stock area:** this site has many dispersed like camp spots, but it is fully fenced for stock, has hitching rails and there is a vault toilet in the camp ground.
3. **Rocky Bluff camping area.** Located a few miles from Adams on FS rd. 221, (can come from either Riggins or Grangeville) it boasts a vault toilet and access to many trails, a few that can take you back to the Adams area.

Trails: The trail system leading from the Adams area is sometimes hard to follow due to lack of budget for maintenance, but most of the ones listed are so well used by the public that they are pretty good. Those paired with the trails that are on a regular maintenance schedule make the system a good one for training and the like. Many of these trails will take you into the wilderness, especially if you have a map. You will be able to follow many of these trails to other trails in the wilderness trail system. See the Gospel-Hump guide for more information on trails in that area.

1. **Trail #431:** Is a motorcycle/stock trail for the portion that starts at the Corral Creek horse site to the 328 trail and on to the old Sawyer Ridge lookout, which isn't there anymore but you can still see the foundations. You can make this a round trip by following trail #328 back to Marble Butte and down to the FS 1864 rd. to the 1862 rd. to an unnamed trail that leads right back to the FS. 309 rd. to follow back to Adams. You can also access the Gospel Hump Wilderness from this point via Sawyer Ridge Tr. #317 and Gospel Cr. Tr.# 305. These trails are open to non-motorized uses only.
2. **Trail # 385:** begins at the Corral Cr. Campground and climbs up to the Grangeville-Salmon Road #221. This trail continues across the 221 road and accesses several other trails in the 4 corners area. The beginning of this trail is open to vehicles less than 50 inches but is very steep and not recommended for novice riders.
3. **Trail #313:** Is an annually maintained trail that is open to vehicles less than 50 inches until its junction with Forest Road #444. It begins directly across the road from Adam's Camp. From the 444 road the trail enters the Gospel Hump Wilderness and is only open to non-mechanized travel. Trail #313 is a 24 mile long trail that terminates at the eastern boundary of the Gospel Hump near the old townsite of Humptown.
4. **The Centennial trail:** Is a 23 mile long ATV trail that begins near Adams Camp and can be accessed either from the 313 Trail or by Forest Road # 221. It begins at the junction of road #221 and road #444 and travels through the historic site of Florence and all the way down to the Wind River Pack Bridge. This trail crosses forest roads numerous times and is easily accessible. The trail is only open to ATVs until the Bullion Mine site approximately 2.5 miles before the Salmon River. After this point it is a single track trail that is only open to motorcycles and non-motorized uses.

Florence Area/Centennial Trail

It has been 150 years since prospectors staked their claim in 1861 when gold was discovered in the Florence Basin of north-central Idaho. In 1862 six to seven million dollars' worth of gold was extracted from this one location. The Centennial Trail goes right through the heart of the Florence area.

History: The big "rush" saw the population of Florence grow from 50 to 9,000 in a single year. Society varied and included hard working miners, merchants, freighters, Chinese miners, prostitutes, gamblers, women, children and outlaws like Cherokee Bob and Henry Plummer. Florence was considered one of the roughest towns in the West during the winter of 1862-1863.

Access: There are two main ways to visit Florence.

1. Hwy 95: At Riggins turn unto the FS rd. 1614 and follow to Allison Creek to turn unto the Grangeville/Salmon rd. (FS rd. 221) take this to FS rd. 643. Follow to the old town site or to the many trails systems that come out of Florence.
2. Hwy 13: At Grangeville turn off unto the FS rd. 221 and follow to the FS rd. 643 follow this to the heart of Florence.

Camping: There are many dispersed camping spots in the area and the Florence cemetery has a picnic table and a vault toilet. Also available is the Rocky Bluff Campground on the 221, ia fee campground that has a table and fire rings along with a vault toilet.

Trails: The main trail of the area would be the (Centennial) 88 trail. This trail is motorized and travels from near Adams Camp to past the Bullion Mine to Wind River Bridge. The (Scott) 163 trail leads off the Centennial trail which leads to the Scott Place and to the Salmon River at French Creek.

3. **Hwy 14:** Meadow Creek campground is 18 miles east of Grangeville and had 3 sites with tables and a vault toilet.
4. **Hwy 14:** Leggett Creek campground has a vault toilet but very primitive campsites, with no true camp pads. It does set off the main road a bit, and is friendly for dogs and small children.

Several more campsites can be found on other FS roads throughout the area. Many of these sites have toilets, others even have seasonal water, especially towards Red River Hot Springs.

Trails: There are several day hikes off the river, and some longer riding or hiking trails that are outlined in other sections in this book.

1. **McAllister Tr. #481:** is an interpretive trail with nine sites that inform the visitor on some of the natural processes at work in the area. It starts across the road from the McAllister rest area (about 13 miles east of Grangeville). It climbs 2 ½ miles into the Earthquake Basin. It is a good late winter/early spring hike that takes about 45 minutes to reach the top. At the top there are many routes to take along old logging and homesteading roads to various locations.
2. **Castle Cr. Tr. #420** will differ a bit from its historical route. It will now go up the ridge above the Castle Creek Work Center. This will be a newly built trail that will lead to the 451 rd. It is located across from the Castle Creek campground which is 14 miles east of Grangeville.
3. **Snoose Cr. Tr. #407:** leaves from the John's Cr. Trailhead. A popular loop takes you past the Gilmore Ranch on Tr. #478 and #407. More information can be found in our Gilmore Ranch Area recreation guide.
4. **Wickiup Tr. #429:** Leaves from the Johns Cr. Trailhead and switchbacks up 2 miles to Rd. #648. The upper end passes though an old homestead site that offers opportunities to explore.
5. **Cougar Creek Tr. #413** is a 3 mile long trail that is open to motorcycles and non-motorized users. It takes you up to Rd. # 9401 where it junctions with Tr. #422.

The South Fork Corridor day hikes

The South Fork of the Clearwater River has much to offer recreationists including hiking, biking, rock climbing, riding, prospecting, wonderful fishing, great hunting, pretty little campgrounds, beautiful vistas, and even some white-water rafting! Hwy 14 follows along the South Fork all the way to its confluence where Red River and American River meet to make the South Fork. You can visit many awesome historical places along the South Fork, and even a few little towns. Elk City is a full service town that lays to the east of the confluence just a couple of miles. Farther into the mountains you will find Orogrande, Buffalo Hump, and Dixie, these are mostly just historical sites now with a few cabins.

History: The area is historically known for its mining, with some of Idaho's best mining districts connected by the South Fork. Golden, Newsome, Elk City, Dixie, Buffalo Hump, and Orogrande being just a few of the larger mining towns. The Elk City Wagon Road which parallels the South Fork River Road to the North was the primary wagon route taken by those long ago miners. The historical Nez Perce Trail also intersects the Wagon Road and is a large part of the history in the area. One can see many vestiges of the mining culture and homesteaded places all up and down the river.

Access: You can access the portion of the South Fork that runs through the Nez Perce National Forest by 3 ways.

1. **Grangeville:** follow HWY 13 east to the edge of town then turn right unto the 221 rd, follow to the outdoor movie theater and veer left unto the Mt. Idaho Grade rd., follow this to the end where it will run into HWY 14 on the river. There is a vault toilet here for your convenience.
2. **Kooskia:** HWY 13 south to the intersection of HWY 14. Follow this up stream to the area you want to visit.
3. **White Bird:** From HWY 95 at Slate Creek, FS rd #354 to the FS 221 rd. north to the FS 309 rd to the South Fork at Mill Creek (only accessible in warmer months).

Camping: There are many developed campgrounds on the South Fork River, and many more dispersed.

1. **Hwy 14:** Castle Creek campground is located 14 miles east of Grangeville. It offers 8 moderate sized campsites with picnic tables, water (seasonally) and a vault toilet.
2. **Hwy 14:** South Fork campground has several sites available for tents and RVs. You may find a volunteer host in the campground. The campground has 9 sites and is well equipped with water and a vault toilet.

Gilmore Ranch Area

This area is known for its many recreational opportunities including good hunting, great trail riding/hiking, and access to the wilderness or Sourdough Peak. There are many ways to access this area but only by non-motorized use. The Gilmore Ranch is private property and even though the trail does slip across its southern boundary, trespass is actively discouraged. There are markers to follow that will lead you on past the ranch and onto the main trail system again.

History: The Gilmore Ranch consists of 450 remote acres of woods and meadows that was homesteaded at the turn of the 20th century by the 3 Gilmore brothers. The brothers, (Elmer, Fred and Sam) came to the area in the late 1800s and built a bed and breakfast, lodging riders passing through during the gold rush days. They raised cattle and farmed the land with equipment still standing in the meadow today. Fred lived in the side of the mountain, Elmer had the B&B lodge and Sam built a cabin, which he never lived in (it still stands as a remnant of the past). The Barton cabin was built in the 1930s and is a day ride from the vast endless forest.

Access: There are many ways to access this area. The easiest access is from Hwy 14 at Johns Creek Trailhead. You can unload your stock here and walk across the pack bridge and access Tr. #407. Also there is access off Highway 14 at Rainy Day (#1875) and Fall Creek (#492).

Camping: There are many developed campsites on the South Fork of the Clearwater River near the Johns Creek Trailhead. There are also a few dispersed campsites near the Gilmore Ranch.

1. **Castle Creek:** On Hwy 14, located 14 miles east of Grangeville. It offers campsites with picnic tables, water (seasonally) intermittently located and a vault toilet. There are 8 campsites that can accommodate up to a moderate size RV.
2. **South Fork:** There are several sites available at this campground and RVs and tent campers are welcome. You may find a volunteer Campground Host during the operating season. Site #3 is 31 feet in length; site #8 is 25 feet in length. All other sites are shorter. This campground is located at mile post 14 on hwy 14. It has 9 sites, intermittent seasonal water and vault toilets. Most of the campsites are paved.
3. **Meadow Creek:** is by far the closest to the Johns Creek Trailhead. It is located 18 miles east of Grangeville and has three sites with tables, and a vault toilet.

4. **Sourdough Saddle:** located by traveling east on State Highway 14 to the junction with Santiam-Sourdough Road #492. Turn south on Road #492 and follow it approximately 24.6 miles to the campsite. Sourdough Saddle is a trailhead with campsites located in fringe of timber and fronting a large meadow. Sourdough Peak is 2.5 miles by road from campsite. Sourdough Lookout is nominated to the National Register of Historic Buildings. Trailhead for Driveway Extension Trail #881 to Lost Lake is 0.8 miles east on Santiam-Sourdough Road. The campground includes four camp pads, one toilet, three pole corrals for stock, one metal fire ring, three hitching rails, and two meat poles.
5. There is one particular dispersed campsite that can be accessed via pickup and trailer, and is close to the Gilmore Ranch Trail system. It is located on the 9454 rd. just past Otter Creek. You may reach the trail by the Rainy Day rd. 1875, turning onto the 9454 rd. and following for a couple of miles to the campsite.

Trails: There is a large 25 mile loop that can be made from these trails, a shortcut at the Gilmore Ranch, and a couple of trails near Sourdough Pk. that access the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. All trails in this area are open to non motorized uses only. All the trails listed are maintained annually there are other trails in the area that may receive periodic maintenance.

1. **Snoose Cr. Tr. #407:** begins at the Johns. Trailhead and travels up 10.6 miles to the Driveway Tr. #431 at the edge of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. This trail is the most common route to access the Gilmore Ranch area.
2. **Blue Ridge Tr. #478:** begins about .5 mile up from the John's Cr. Trailhead on Tr. # 407. It climbs up to some nice large open Ponderosa stands on the top of Blue Ridge and runs the ridge for 3 miles until its ending at the jct. with Tr. # 401. From this point you can take Tr. #401 down to the #407 trail at Gilmore Ranch and then loop back down Tr. #407 and back to the John's Cr. TH. You can also continue up Tr. #401 to Sourdough Peak and beyond into the Gospel Hump Wilderness.
3. **Frank Brown Tr. #401:** is maintained from the Gilmore ranch and up 7.5 miles to Sourdough Peak. At Sourdough Peak you can explore the old lookout and take the Driveway Tr. #431 down to Tr. #407 to make a loop or continue out to the Moore's – Sourdough Trail #312 and into the network of trails within the Gospel Hump Wilderness.

4. Van Buren Tr. #303: Connects off the Little Slate Trail 309 to Telephone Ridge. Over 5 miles in length.
5. Southwest Butte Tr. #118: From the FS rd. 441 to Chair Point Lookout and the Nut Basin Area. This trail is about 3.3 miles long.
6. No Business Creek Tr. #349: From FS rd. 354 to the 330 trail in Slate Point. This trail is a little less than 3 miles in length.
7. Little Van Buren Tr. #330: From FS rd. 354 to Slate Point Lookout. Also connects with the 349 trail. Trail is just over 6 miles long.
8. Nut Basin Tr. #117: Ridge top trail that connects 118 trail and 301 trail at Slate Point Lookout. Trail is about 6 miles in length and is open to motorized and non-motorized use.
9. N.F. Slate Creek Tr. #320: From the FS rd. 354 at North Fork Campground to the Dairy Mountain area. This trail leads into 365 trail and the 386 trail and the 386 trail which leads back to the FS rd. 243. Trail is about 8.2 miles long.
10. Peter Ready Tr. #321: From the FS rd. 354 to the FS rd. 398. This is a fairly short trail at just under 3 miles.
11. Martin Spring Tr. #321: From the FS rd. 263 and the trail 136. It is a single track trail that has several steep pitches and tight switchbacks. Novice motorcyclist should use caution.
12. John Day Mountain Tr. #136: is maintained from its junction with the trail 82 to trail 118 for a total length of 4 miles.
13. Nut Basin Lake #133: is .5 mile in length and provides access to Nut Basin Lake. It is only open to Non-motorized use.

Access: There are four areas to access.

1. Little Slate: U.S. HWY 95 at Slate Creek rd. #354 12.6 miles to Bridge and on up Little Slate Creek road #354G to the turnaround area, approximately 1.5 miles. You can also access this same trail on the FS 221 rd. up by Gold Creek and around the turn off to the 2002 rd.
2. Little Van Buren trail: Same as above except you stop at trail #330 to Slate Point lookout which runs into trail #441A to Nut Basin.
3. Peter Ready: U.S. HWY 95 at Riggins to FS. Rd. 1614 to FS rd. 221 follow this to the FS rd. 243 to access upper portions of the connector trails. Take the FS rd. 463 to trail 320. You can also come into the FS rd. 221 via Grangeville. Another route in would be take the FS rd. 354 at Slate Creek into the area.
4. Nut Basin/John Day: U.S. HWY 95 at Slate Creek turn into FS rd. 354 and then turn onto FS rd. 441 follow 16.1 miles to trail 118. You can access the area via the Slate Creek rd. (FS rd. 354) side as well on the Little Slate trail. Another way to access the area is to follow the 221 from Allison Creek or Grangeville to FS rd. 535 which will run into FS rd. 441.

Camping: North Fork Slate Creek Campground is a no fee campground with 5 sites and a vault toilet. There are many dispersed campsites along Slate Creek, keep in mind this is rattlesnake country!

Trails:

1. Little Slate Creek Tr. #309 is non-motorized and follows the course of Little Slate Cr. 11 miles up to Little Slate Saddle on the Grangeville/Salmon rd. FS 221. This trail receives regular maintenance but will still provide the user with moderate challenges with numerous stream crossings and some open meadows in which the tread becomes ill defined. The crossing of Boulder Cr. Approximately two miles up from the trailhead can present early season barriers when water flows are high.
2. Deadhorse Ridge Tr. #301: Is an ATV trail that connects the Little Slate TH and the rd. #2038 near Slate Point. The trail between Rd. #2038 and Slate Point is not suitable for ATV travel, but ATV user may take the road around for access.
3. Telephone Ridge Tr. #329: Begins about a mile up from Little Slate TH on trail #301 and Climbs 4.5 miles and 2300 ft in elevation to its junction with Dead Point Trail #307. Telephone Ridge is currently open to motorcycles and non-motorized uses. The trail has several very steep pitches that can be hazardous to the inexperienced rider.

Gospel-Hump Wilderness

Visitors to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness should remember that it is managed to enhance and preserve its wilderness character, and many of the amenities such as trail signs, campsite developments, and high standard trails are absent. Wilderness travelers may find that they have to rely on their own resources in coping with problems of navigations, climate, and terrain, and they should remember that emergency services are limited to non-existent in a wilderness situation. In order to minimize the impact of stock to the area it is imperative that campers try to use low-impact camping and stock handling techniques. By packing out all non-burnable trash and litter, naturalizing campsites, and keeping stock tied well away from main camping areas and lakeshores, the natural character of the land is maintained and the pollution to streams and lakes is prevented. The use of modern, lightweight camping gear reduces the necessity of cutting tents poles thus denuding trees that may shelter a campsite. They also reduce the amount of pack animals required. By leaning tent poles up in a tree for re-use and taking down all hitch rails means a campsite can be left in a clean, natural looking state for the next visitor.

The Gospel-Hump Wilderness comprises the easternmost parts of the Salmon River District, encompassing parts of both the Salmon River and the Clearwater River drainages. Trails on the Salmon River District portions of the Gospel-Hump provide the wilderness traveler with 170 miles of a wide range of primitive travel conditions. Good opportunities for day use with a high degree of solitude. Trails are difficult with sustained grades; water is limited and must be treated before drinking.

History: The Gospel-Hump area was first used by the Nez Perce Indians possibly as far back as 6000 BC. These native people entered the high country to seasonally hunt elk, deer and bear. Some game trails were used to provide access to the Salmon River for fishing. The area remained virtually unknown to non-Indians until 1861 when placer gold was discovered just west of the mountains at Florence. The gold rush was intense and gave rise to a significant community, but did not last long. In 1898 an extensive quartz vein was discovered at the base of Buffalo Hump in the east portion of the mountains. This discovery started one of the last major gold rushes in the US and thousands of prospectors moved in. Two wagon roads were built over the mountains to provide supplies and access to numerous communities such as Frogtown, Humptown and several others. This mining boom subsided in 1903, but was revived during the depression as the unemployed tried to strike it rich. Remnants of placer mines, diggings, and abandoned boom towns are still evident. Mining is not permitted in the wilderness today, but some mining activities still occur in adjacent areas. This is perhaps the only designated wilderness where one can stand in places formerly inhabited by thousands of people, but virtually all traces of these communities are now gone.

Access: Most visitors use FS. Roads 444 or 223 to access higher peaks and lakes of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness, but there are a few additional secondary entry points.

1. **Road #444:** Accessed by FS rd. 221 (Grangeville/Salmon road), either by Riggins (Rd # 1614) or by Grangeville (off Hwy 13 at about 21 miles from town). This road rises steeply off the paved 221 rd, and is very narrow. A

small spur descends to near Slate Lake and accesses trails over the western ridges of the wilderness area.

2. **Road #223:** Turn off Hwy 14 past Golden and before the turn off to Red River and Elk City. This road will follow Crooked River to Orogrande where it will continue past up to what is known as the Buffalo Hump area.
3. **Road # 1614:** From Hwy 95 at Riggins crosses the bridge and travel up the main Salmon River rd. (1614) which ends at Vinegar Creek. Approximately 2 miles before Vinegar trail 312 crosses the river and enters the wilderness area via the Wind River Canyon. This trail head is used mostly by packers as it a long ways through steep arid canyons to reach the high country via this route. Parking is extremely limited at Wind River Bridge and users should avoid parking in a manner that does not allow sufficient room for regular road traffic.
4. **Road #492:** From Hwy 14 a few miles east of Golden, you will cross the river on a wooden bridge at Fall Creek. You can access Sourdough Peak via this road. The Wilderness is reached by the many trail heads from this location.
5. **Road #311A:** Turns off FS rd. 222 approximately 4 miles south of Dixie. This point provides access into the large canyons of the remote Crooked Creek Basin. You can access several FS trails from trail #215 from the end of this road, although, these trails are not guaranteed to be cleared from year to year.
6. **Road 222:** This is the least noteworthy because of the condition of the road and the availability of the trails. If you follow this road past Lemon Creek Saddle you will follow the outer reaches of the wilderness for a couple of miles although there are really no access trails from this area. Be warned after the Dixie Work Center this road becomes a little more than a 4 wheeler track. No trailers recommended.
7. **Road 309:** (Hungry Ridge Road) several trails lead to the wilderness from this road, the most noteworthy is the one that leads out of Adams Ranger Station, (trail 313).

Camping: There are nine primitive campgrounds at or near the boundary of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. These have few services, but generally have vault toilets and some have water.

1. **Rocky Bluff:** Has 4 units and is off FS rd. 221, this is just a little over a mile from the turn off to the Gospels on FS rd. 444.
2. **Sourdough:** 4 units and is near the end of FS rd. 492. It is near most of the trailheads accessing the north part of the wilderness.
3. **Six Mile:** 2 units and is less than halfway up FS rd. 492

Slate Creek Area

There are four smaller areas that make up the Slate Creek area all with many recreation opportunities.

History: Slate Creek area was home to one of the first Ranger Stations in the area. The old Ranger Station Cabin was located further up the creek, was torn apart and moved to its current location where Slate Creek drains into the Salmon River on HWY 95. If you follow some of the trail systems below you can visit the Florence area which is steeped in infamous history.

Little Slate Creek

The Little Slate Trail #309 follows Little Slate Creek through dense timber stands and open meadows, and side trails to Florence. Telephone Ridge, Dead Point, and Slate Point Lookout connect to Little Slate Creek trail at various places. This trail was long used for range for cattle and sheep as well as a travel route for early ranchers and settlers to Florence.

Little Van Buren Trail

The No Business Creek stock driveway trail connects with the little Van Buren 3.2 miles from the trail head. The upper end of the trail meets Slate Point Road .2 miles south of the lookout, 6 miles from the start which is on Slate Creek Road (#354). The trail follows the creek then climbs to the ridge through mixed stand of pine and fir, ascending rapidly for the 6 mile distance to Slate Point Lookout. Water supplies are very limited once the trail leaves the creek. There is a spring 4.3 miles up the trail, and another at the end of the trail by the lookout. All water must be treated before drinking.

Peter Ready

The Peter Ready Trail was named for Pete Ready, a scout for General O.O. Howard during the Nez Perce Campaign of 1877. The area is historically a cattle grazing area.

Nut Basin/John Day

The Southwest Butte Trail #118 is a primitive ATV trail and it is easier to travel than the trail #136. It crosses just under the butte and there are many small grassy benches suitable for camping. Water supplies are undependable after the snow is completely gone. The John Day Mountain Trail #136 leaves the skid road 1 mile from Nut Basin, continuing west where it skirts the mountain. The brush ridge trail joins the trail 1.7 miles from Nut Basin, but this trail ends on private land and there is no public access to the foot of the trail. The #136 trail ends at Wet Gulch road and the trail end are 9 miles from US HWY 95.

Lower Salmon River Area

These routes are a portion of the old Salmon River Trail used before the construction of the road. From the foot of the Scott Ranch Trail, the route follows the old Florence-Warren Wagon road to the Scott Ranch. The Scott Ranch is privately owned and trespassing is actively discouraged. Nearly a mile from the river up the Scott Ranch trail there is a natural hot spring along the trail.

History: The Scott Ranch route was used by the miners and freighters during the gold rush days. The Scott Ranch is a homestead that dates to the first Florence gold rush in mid-1860. The lower Salmon Trail is a remnant of the Northside river trail, used until the construction of the Salmon River road by the CCC's in the 1930's. This route was a piece of the historic Milner Trail.

Access: The only good access is from the Salmon River. The most often utilized routes to the Scott Ranch are at its junction with the forest rd. #394 and from the Centennial Trail #88. From HWY 95 at Riggins for up the main Salmon on the FS rd. 1614 to the Manning Crevice Bridge which is the second bridge that goes across the river, the lower Salmon River Trail starts here. There is very limited parking at this trail head. You can access the Scott Ranch trail at just above the ranch. Warning: the trail 119 goes through a piece of private, you need permission to go through here.

Camping: Only Spring Bar campground has water in the summer and a vault toilet on the Salmon River nearby the trails. One could also stay at the many dispersed sites either nearby to Florence or on the river.

1. Spring Bar Campground: On the 1614 rd. ½ mile past Allison Creek.
2. Van Creek Campground: On the 1614 rd. at Van Creek.

Trails: The Yakima Mine trail is a motorcycle route which is lightly maintained. It goes 5 miles up the Forest Road #394 passing several intact structures at the old Yakima Mine. It takes the visitor through some large open Ponderosa Pine stands and can be made into a loop by taking trail #163 back up to Rd. #394. Motorcycle users are encouraged to use caution as this trail contains some technical riding abilities.

1. Main Salmon River Trail: Second bridge on the 1614 rd. to trail #119 which ends at the Scott Ranch on trail #163 (7 miles). This trail runs along the river from the Manning Crevice Bridge to the jct. with the Milner Trail #163 – which is across the river from the French Creek drainage. (5 miles)
2. The Milner Trail: #163 trail begins at the Salmon River where Tr. #119 ends. It climbs up to the Scott Ranch on a lightly maintained route that is open to motorized use but usually travelled on foot. At the Scott Ranch the trail becomes a well maintained ATV trail that takes you up 3-4 miles to the

4. **Orogrande:** 11 miles up Crooked River from hwy 14. This campground has 11 units.
5. **Orogrande Summit:** Primitive campground with 5 units and is on the north-east border of the wilderness area.
6. **Wildhorse:** Primitive with 6 units, located about 2 miles west of Orogrande Summit at the end of FS rd. 2331.
7. **Five Mile:** 4 units, up Crooked River about 2 miles north of Orogrande Campground.
8. **Sams Creek:** 3 units are on the FS 222 rd about 3 miles south of Dixie.
9. **Halfway House:** 4 units and is at the end of FS rd. 331A south of Dixie.
10. **Moore's Station:** This is up into the Wilderness area on the 444 FS rd. which is technically off wilderness. This campground has a vault bathroom and is set up for stock with feeders and hitching rails. 12 spots to camp with a loop to pull your stock trailers through.
11. **Square Mountain:** Further past Moore's Station there is a campground with a vault toilet just below the Square Mountain lookout on FS rd. 444. Its is mostly a open area with a couple of "spots" Many people with stock use this area, since there many trail heads there and it is a very large open area good for stock trailers.

Good camping can also be found at the numerous dispersed sites in or near the wilderness. Some more popular areas are along FS rd. 221 (Grangeville/ Salmon rd.) and FS rd. 223 (Crooked River Rd.). Many sites can be found from the beginning of FS. Rd 444 (Gospel rd.) following the road all the way to Square Mountain. Be aware that these dispersed sites are small and may not accommodate more than one or two camping parties at a time. Some things to keep in mind is that the Gospel rd. (FS rd. 444) is very steep and rough making it possible to injure livestock or your haul vehicle during hauling over this road. Forage is relatively scarce over much of the area, so numbers of saddle and pack stock should be kept to a minimum. Supplemental feed is recommended only certified weed free hay may be used on the Forest.. Insect repellent is advised as mosquitoes, and other biting insects are thick.

Trails: There are many trails into the Wilderness from various points, for the purpose of this document only trails on the Salmon River Ranger District that have been maintained in the last 5 years will be listed.

1. **Moore's Lake #380:** 444 rd 3.5 mi. to Moore's Lake
2. **Moore's-Sourdough & Moore's –Black Butte #312:** 444 rd. North 12 mi. to Sourdough Saddle and South from the 313 at Anchor Meadows 20 mi. to the Wind River Pack Bridge on the Salmon River.
3. **Square Mtn. Lake #381:** #383 1 mi. to the Square Mountain Lake

4. **Square Mtn #383:** 444 rd. at square Mtn. to the 305, 381, 382, and 6.5 mi. to the 312.
5. **Square Mtn. Spur #384:** #383 1.5 mi. to #313
6. **Twin Lakes #382:** #383 1 mi. to the Twin Lakes
7. **Gospel Cr. #305:** #431 9 mi. to #315
8. **Sawyer Ridge #317:** 444 A rd. 3 mi. to #305
9. **Hump #313:** 309 rd. all the way from Adams Ranger Station to Hump Town
10. **Boundary #300:** #313 @ Ten Mile Creek 9 mi. to #312 near Sourdough Saddle
11. **Johns-Taylor #351:** Loop of #315 follows Taylor Creek 3 mi.
12. **Kentucky Cr. #315:** #313 7.5 mi. to Three Forks @ Johns Creek
13. **Hidden Lake #353:** #313 1 mi. to Hidden Lake
14. **Johnson Saddle #311:** #201 @ Sheep Creek 6 mi. to #312 below Black Butte
15. **J. Saddle Cutoff #91:** #312 2 mi. to #311
16. **Florence-Moores #332:** #313 above Slate Lake 7.5 mi. to Rhett Meadows (rd. 9922)
17. **Hanover Cr. #90:** #332 @ Florence Basin 4 mi. to #125 @ Hanover Mountain
18. **Round Top #310:** Rocky Bluff (221 rd.) 6 mi. to #332 below Umbrella Butte
19. **Hanover Mtn. #125:** #332 below Wind River Meadows 5.5 mi. to Rock Cr. Point

McComas Area

Welcome to the McComas Meadow country and take a trip through time. This travel way was built by using old logging roads, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) fire roads and part of a jeep trail. This trail follows the divide between Cougar and Peasley creeks. There is roughly 20 miles of ATV type trail in this system. The McComas area is one of the most level areas on the Nez Perce National Forest, meaning better recreational opportunities for many people. The area is quiet, and calming with lush green meadows and beautiful creeks. There are a few trails in the area to satisfy the riders and hikers.

History: The McComas area was a stopping ground for the Nez Perce Indians when hunting. They would hunt and gather in the meadow and surrounding areas. By 1860 it was homesteaded and eventually became a large dairy farm, many cows roamed the meadow and the land was farmed. The Nez Perce National Forest acquired the area in 1991. Today the land around the main meadow remains a large cattle allotment that is perfect for summer range.

Access: The McComas Meadow area can be accessed by the Lightning Creek Rd. (**FS rd. 244**) off of **HWY13 south of Harpster**. Access can be found also at Sally Ann Creek on **HWY 13 north of Harpster** on the Elk City Wagon Rd. (**FS rd.284**)

Camping: There is a main campground at McComas Meadows and many more dispersed.

1. **FS rd. 648:** *Potlatch Camp* is located on the southern edge of the McComas meadows and mostly just an open area with a vault toilet. Travel from HWY 13 up FS rd. 244 to reach FS rd. 648 and the campground.

Trails: The majority of the trails in the area are open to vehicles less than 50 inches, but be sure to check a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to ensure that you are on a motorized trail.

1. Swan Cr. Tr. #428: This is an ATV trail that begins near McComas Meadows up road #1185. It is a well maintained trail that will lead you up 9 miles to Road #244 near China Point. This trail also intersect trails #422 and #1847.
2. Big Burn Point Tr. #422: This is a well maintained ATV trail that travels 5 miles from Big Burn Point down to Forest Road #648. Where it intersects Cougar Cr. Tr. #413.
3. Tr. #1847: Is a well maintained trail that travels 5 miles from its intersection of road #244 and Tr. # 428 down to road # 648.
4. Trails # 417 and #418: These are short non-motorized trails that provide opportunities to explore Earthquake Basin and Blacktail Butte. They are only maintained intermittently .